I. JESUS COMMANDS THE WAVES. MARK 4:35-41, 6:45-52

This story would bring comfort to a persecuted Church. The disciples' lives are at risk and they are in an impossibly dangerous situation. Yet Jesus shows that you can turn events around quite dramatically, completely "out of the blue". Only God could control the elements: "You rule over the powerful sea; you calm its angry waves." (*Psalm* 89:8) Jesus has the power of God in its fulness.

Why has Mark put this miracle next to parables? Sometimes there is a thin dividing line between the two. It could be argued that Jesus's stilling of the storm is a kind of action parable – in other words, an action which has a deliberate and conscious meaning. There is something that Jesus does later on in the Gospel - the cursing of a fig-tree - which is definitely an action-parable. The feeding of five thousand people is also probably an action-parable. So the distinction between "saying" – telling a story – and "doing" - performing an action - can become blurred.

I1. BOWYER BIBLE PRINT 4355. CHRIST STILLS THE STORM. PARROS